

What is Claimed is:

1. A video surveillance system comprising:

a surveillance terminal located at a field site;

a viewing terminal located remotely from the field site; and

a communications link connecting said viewing terminal to said surveillance terminal;

said surveillance terminal including an input video processor, a digital memory connected to said input video processor, and an output processor connected to said input video processor and said digital memory;

said input video processor adapted to receive video information from a video source, archive said video information to said digital memory and to provide real time video information to said output processor;

said output processor adapted to retrieve said archived video information from said digital memory or to receive said real time video information from said input processor and to communicate said video information over the communications link;

said viewing terminal including a view control processor, a video display processor and a video display;

said view control processor adapted to receive a user command which selects either the archived video information or the real time video information and communicates said user command to said surveillance terminal over said communications link;

said video processor adapted to receive said video information from said communications link and display it on said video display; and

wherein said output video processor of said surveillance terminal is responsive to said user command to selectively communicate either said archived video information or said real time video information to said viewer terminal over said communications link.

2. The video surveillance system as set forth in Claim 1 which further comprises:

an input data processor, connected to said digital memory and to said output processor, adapted to receive data information from a data source, archive said data information to said digital memory and to provide real time data information to said output processor; and

said output processor adapted to retrieve said archived data information from said digital memory or to receive said real time data information from said input data processor and to communicate data information over the communications link;

3. The video surveillance system as set forth in Claim 1 which further comprises:

said view control processor further adapted to receive a user command which selects either the archived data information or the real time data information and communicates said user command to said surveillance terminal over said communications link;

said video display processor further adapted to receive said data information from said communications link and display it on said video display; and

wherein said output processor of said surveillance terminal is responsive to said user command to selectively communicate either said archived data information or said real time data information to said viewer terminal over said communications link.

4. The video surveillance system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said digital memory includes:

a hard disk drive.

5. The video surveillance system as set forth in Claim 4 wherein said digital memory further includes:

a back up hard disk drive.

6. The video surveillance system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein:

said digital memory includes random access memory; and

said input processor segments said archived video data into files of a predetermined length of time.

7. The video surveillance system as set forth in Claim 6 wherein:

said digital random access memory is a hard disk drive; and

said input processor names each archived video file as the starting time of recording the file.

8. The video surveillance system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein:

said communications link includes an internet connection with a server presence at the surveillance terminal and a user interface at the viewing terminal.

9. The video surveillance system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein:

said video input processor compresses said video information before it is archived.

10. The video surveillance system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein:

said video input processor compresses said real time video information before it is transferred to said output processor.

11. A video surveillance recorder having a nonvolatile memory comprising:

An input video processor for receiving and processing a video signal from a video source to provide a processed video signal;

means for recording said processed video signal in the nonvolatile memory in file segments of a predetermined length, wherein each file segment is associated with a file identifier related to the time of recording said file segment; and

means for retrieving a file segment from said nonvolatile memory utilizing said file identifiers based on a user request to view a file segment recorded at a selected time.

12. A video surveillance recorder as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising:

An input data processor for receiving and processing a data signal from a data source to provide a processed data signal;

means for recording said processed data signal in the nonvolatile memory as a series of events, wherein each event is associated with an event identifier related to the time of occurrence of the event; and

means for retrieving an event from said nonvolatile memory utilizing said event identifiers based on a user request to view data from an event occurring at a selected time.

13. A video surveillance recorder as set forth in Claim 12 wherein:

said event data is associated with the content of the video files and the selected time of viewing is the same time.

14. A video surveillance recorder as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising:

means for converting said processed video signal back into a video signal.

15. A video surveillance recorder as set forth in Claim 12 further comprising:

means for converting said processed data signal back into a data signal.

16. A video surveillance recorder as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said video input processing means further comprises:

means for compressing said video signal.

17. A video surveillance recorder as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising:

means for communicating said retrieved file segment to a remote viewing terminal.

18. A video surveillance recorder as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said means for communicating further comprises:

means for converting said retrieved file segment into TCP/IP format..

19. A video surveillance recorder as set forth in Claim 12 further comprising:

means for converting said retrieved event data into TCP/IP format..